

**Presentation:** "Homeland Security – The Public Health and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002"

**Speaker:** Captain Marvin Young, USPHS/EPA, State Program Manager, Drinking Water Office

Captain Marvin Young has been a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) for 25 years. He earned a Master of Science degree in public health and is a Registered Sanitarian in the State of Hawaii. One of his most unique USPHS assignments was in Window Rock, Arizona, as a health facilities safety and community injury control officer on the Navajo Indian Reservation for over three years. Currently he is assigned to the EPA Region 9 Drinking Water Office. He and his colleagues oversee implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act program by Region 9 states and territories and directly implement the program of Tribal Lands.

**Handout:** "Progress and Plans to Enhance Drinking Water Security"

**Notes:**

Mr. Young discussed EPA's efforts to protect drinking water critical infrastructure and presented an overview of the vulnerability assessment methodology.

After September 11, 2002, EPA created a Water Protection Task Force to ensure that drinking and wastewater systems have access to the best scientific information and technical expertise necessary to address acts of terrorism.

A compact disk pertaining to wastewater vulnerability assessment methodology will be available by the end of August 2002. The Association of Metropolitan Sewer Agencies (AMSA) created this compact disk. Additional information regarding conducting vulnerability assessments is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>.

**Discussion:**

Regarding	Questions/Remarks	Response*
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"Satisfactory" Vulnerability Assessment Components	In the vulnerability assessments, would you set up a schedule for the next time you might visit this topic?	Vulnerability assessments relate to the current period of time. They take into account your geopolitical situation. You need to incorporate working with your law enforcement people to develop these assessments. For example, do you have Greenpeace or extreme environmental groups that are causing a lot of the problems? Are terrorists really your highest priority? Do you have teenagers lighting off firecrackers? All of these components become part of your assessment, so when events change, as the world situation changes, you have to go back and revisit it and adjust the plan. It's not static.
Hr 3445 Bioterrorism Act – Title IV	In terms of the financial assistance to community water systems serving more than 3,300 persons, is the cap of \$5 million for all grants or each grant?	It's not likely that we'll try to give a grant of a few thousand dollars to every system. We'd get overwhelmed with just trying to manage the paperwork. What we'll probably do is funnel that money into tools and training so that people will be able to conduct their own vulnerability assessments.
	DoD facilities play special roles in community emergency support. Are you looking at that role as part of your vulnerability assessment?	Any particular water system that has that feature afforded to them should contact law enforcement and anyone else who could possibly be involved and make sure that they are all participants in the development of the vulnerability assessment and the emergency operating plan. Updating emergency operating plans is a good way to get out and reestablish those contacts.